

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A surgical instrument comprising:  
a handle defining a longitudinal axis, the handle having an outer surface including a plurality of longitudinal fins that define a plurality of longitudinal grooves therebetween[.], and said handle having at least one finger notch.
2. (Original) The surgical instrument of claim 1, further comprising an elongated tubular portion having an opening configured for suction.
3. (Original) A surgical instrument as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of the fins project radially from the outer surface.
4. (Original) A surgical instrument as recited in claim 1, wherein a pair of the fins project radially from the outer surface and are diametrically opposed.
5. (Original) A surgical instrument as recited in claim 1, wherein a pair of the fins are opposed and disposed in a plane tangential to the outer surface of the handle.
6. (Original) A surgical instrument as recited in claim 1, wherein two separate pairs of the fins project radially from the outer surface and are diametrically disposed.
7. (Original) A surgical instrument as recited in claim 6, wherein the two separate pairs are offset 90° relative to the longitudinal axis.
8. (Original) A surgical instrument as recited in claim 1, wherein two separate pairs of the fins are opposed and disposed in alternate planes tangential to the outer surface of the

handle.

(9) (Currently Amended) A surgical instrument as recited in claim 1, wherein the grooves ~~include~~ define guide channels that direct fluid ~~to a proximal end of the handle~~ away from the handle.

10. (Original) A surgical instrument as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one groove defines a greater volume than an adjacent groove.

11. (Original) A surgical instrument as recited in claim 2, wherein the tubular portion includes a passageway that extends to the opening having a nozzle.

12. (Original) A surgical instrument as recited in claim 2, wherein the tubular portion has a curvature adjacent a distal portion thereof.

13. (Original) A surgical instrument as recited in claim 2, wherein a proximal end of the handle has an attachment configured to communicate with a suction source.

14. (Original) A surgical instrument as recited in claim 1, wherein the surgical instrument has a center of mass located distal to the handle.

15. (Original) A surgical instrument as recited in claim 1, wherein the handle has a first wall thickness that smoothly increases to a second wall thickness.

16. Cancel

17. Cancel

18. (Original) A surgical instrument as recited in claim 1, wherein the fins are

configured to facilitate gripping.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A medical suction apparatus comprising:  
an elongated tubular portion including a passageway that extends to an opening having a nozzle that is configured for suction; and  
a handle mounted with the tubular portion and defining a longitudinal axis, the handle having an outer surface including a plurality of longitudinal fins, wherein the plurality of longitudinal fins include a first and second pair of the fins that project radially from the outer surface, the fins of each pair being diametrically opposed, the first and second pairs being offset 90° relative to the longitudinal axis of the handle, said handle having at least one finger notch,  
the plurality of longitudinal fins further including a third and fourth separate pair of the fins that are opposed and disposed in alternate planes tangential to the outer surface of the handle.  
the plurality of longitudinal fins defining a plurality of longitudinal grooves therebetween, the grooves ~~including~~ defining guide channels that direct fluid to a proximal end of away from the handle.

21. (New) A surgical instrument as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one finger notch is a depression that receives a thumb and forefinger of a practitioner.

22. (New) A surgical instrument as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one finger notch comprises a vent hole therein.

23. (New) A surgical instrument as recited in claim 22, wherein the vent hole is open, partially covered, or completely covered.